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MONDAY
DECEMBER 27, 1954

Finally got a newspaper via Mr. Carter, my manager. It reported a vote adverse to Western European Union on last Friday night by the French Parliamentary. Consequently, Foster Dulles has been burning the wires to foreign capitals, editorials are denouncing French political instability, and President Eisenhower has stated he will leave the Winter White House at Augusta, Georgia, and return to Washington if the later votes on this subject are also negative.

I set forth to Brookneal, and discovered a telephone repair crew on the line. It seems a revelry-inspired motorist had incontinently demolished one of the poles, and, after four days of silence, we would soon again be on the circuit. This we were, and a feeble-sounding conduit was opened to the outside world.

Foster Dulles called me from Washington this evening to say he had received a few minutes earlier the news from Paris of a favorable vote by a majority of approximately 40 deputies on the first of the measures. If succeeding votes should go badly, he wants me to come to Washington earlier than expected. Also, he wants to revive with me the question of my working in the State Department.

Mr. Carter and I spent part of the afternoon in animal by animal inspection of our 320 odd Aberdeen Angus cattle. They looked more sleek than befits animals that seem invariably to sell for less than it costs to breed and raise them.

This morning, Sasha, David and I went hunting on Brookland. Even though forested, it was a disappointment to find an area once so full of game now devoid of it.

I read last night Churchill's (the Gunmaker) Art of Shooting, but, while here, have little prospect of putting his precepts into practice.

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